India to foreign destinations, Government have signed/negotiated open skies agreements with different countries;

(b) if so, the names of the countries with whom such agreements have been negotiated/signed; and

(c) the details of the agreements indicating the bilateral/multilateral obligations arising therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) India has so far entered into open skies agreement only with United States of America.

(c) This agreement provides the legal framework for operation of air services between India and USA. As per the agreement, both countries can designate any number of airlines for operation of any number of services to any point in the territory of the other country with full intermediate and beyond rights. The bilateral obligations as well as the rights accrue equally to both the contracting parties. There are no multilateral obligations arising out of the agreement.

Maintenance of Hyderabad Airport

3. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pieased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the flooring at Hyderabad airport is slippery and dangerous and a number of elderly passengers have been hurt;

(b) the reasons for the poor management at Hyderabad airprot;

(c) whether there is any linkage between the recent arrests of airport managers of Hyderabad airport and the poor maintenance of the airport; and

(d) what steps will be taken by Government to ensure that the entire airport and its maintenance comes under active and expert scrutiny immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No complaint either on the material or on finishing including incident of injury to any elderly passenger due to slippery flooring has so far been received by the Airports Authority of India.

(b) The management at Hyderabad airport is functioning according to the laid down guidelines/regulations of Airports Authority of India (AAI) and has been found satisfactory as per the latest customer satisfaction index.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) It has been decided to have a comprehensive contract for carrying out the Mechanized Environmental Support Services at Hyderabad airport for substantial improvement at the cleanliness front.

Air Service Agreement With US

4. SHRIANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have reached an Air Service agreement for increasing the bilateral air traffic between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of destinations made available to the Indian carriers; and

(c) the policy for the utilization of new routes and the allocation of slots among national and private carriers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) India and USA have initiated a revised Air Services Agreement in January, 2005. As per this Agreement, both countries can designate any number of airlines, which in turn can operate any number of services from any point in the home country to any point in the territory of the other contracting party with full intermediate/beyond traffic rights. This Agreement thus gives access to the designated Indian carriers to any point in the USA.

(c) Detailed guidelines have been notified by Director General of Civil Aviation in this regard. These, *inter-alia,* envisage that operational plans of Air India and Indian Airlines be taken into consideration before allocation of routes among other scheduled operators. Allocation of traffic rights amongst eligible scheduled carriers would depend on the availability of traffic rights to particular countries/routes. If the total entitlements fall short of the requirements projected by the eligible airlines, inter-se allocation of